



Montana



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2010 Final
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	486,100
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	794,000
Forest Legacy	2,925,000
Forest Stewardship	754,300
State Fire Assistance	915,100
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,944,860
Urban and Community Forestry	557,400
Volunteer Fire Assistance	173,940
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	275,730
Total	8,826,430

This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Cooperative forestry programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the State of Montana, USDA Forest Service, and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Montana's forests and rural economies.

- Healthy forests and rangelands through effective response to wildfire, insect pests and disease, and other emerging threats.
- Increased economic, social, and environmental values through sustained forest management.
- Vibrant communities with parks, boulevard trees, and natural areas.
- Integrated forest industry in Montana through sustainable forest management of private, state, tribal, and federal forestlands.

Key Issues:

- Efficient delivery of landowner and community assistance programs to reduce fire fuel hazards, promote forest stewardship, engage communities in maintaining urban landscapes, and protect forests from health threats.
- Safe and effective wildland fire suppression and management.
- Conservation of working forests.
- Forest health in rural and urban landscapes.
- Forest and agricultural biomass utilization for heat and energy production.
- Sustainable forest management and forested ecosystems restoration.
- Capacity building at local community levels to implement beneficial natural resource management programs, policies, and initiatives.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2010 Accomplishments	
Population	902,195	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	4,484
Acres of Forest Land	25,014,000	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	11,929
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	5,430,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,767
Number of NIPF Landowners	40,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	363
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,698,462	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	34
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	2,624,247	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	39,271
Number of Rural Fire Departments	387	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	754
Number of Cities And Towns	275	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	52
Forest Based Employment	9,700	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	439,556
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	9,903
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	14,753,163		

Program Highlights:

Cooperative Fire Protection

The 2010 fire season was slightly below average, with 261 fires burning a total of 40,307 acres. Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) suppressed 234 of the 249 fires on direct protection lands for an initial attack success rate of 94%.

Forest Health Protection

Mountain pine beetle continues to kill pine across Montana's forested landscape and in shelterbelt and urban plantings. Last year, 884 citizens attended 24 workshops and presentations. Service foresters made 527 pest-related site visits and 355 office and phone assists. Outreach via the interagency website (www.beetles.mt.gov) has been well received and serves as a one-stop shop for all information about mountain pine beetle.

Forest Legacy

Montana received a \$2.9 million grant in fiscal year 2010 to purchase approximately 9,594 acres in the Garnet Mountains. This project is part of the Blackfoot Community conservation work that has been ongoing for many years. The proposed project area is home to grizzly bears and wolves, while lynx thrive on adjacent land. The Legacy Program is administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. State-funded acquisition of forested lands in the Blackfoot valley was also partially enabled by Congressional support for the Forest Legacy Program.

Landowner Assistance

In 2010, Montana DNRC consulted directly with 1,702 "Family Forest" landowners across the state. Montana DNRC staff also provided 56 assists related to timber sales amounting to the harvest of 13,800 million board feet. The program also provided \$49,000 in forestry assistance cost share for private landowner projects.

Urban and Community Forestry

Roughly 455,000 Montanans -- nearly half of the state's population -- live in communities designated as Tree City USAs. These communities invested \$3.2 million for stewardship of their urban landscapes, including tree planting, maintenance, management, and Arbor Day celebrations. Volunteers logged over 9,000 hours in service to local urban and community forestry programs. Our Urban and Community Forestry program delivered \$129,000 in grants to communities via state and federal sources.

Assistance to Local Fire Departments

Montana DNRC provides grant funding from the USDA Volunteer Fire Assistance and the Department of Interior Rural Fire Assistance programs to county fire agencies for equipment, training and fire prevention materials. This year, DNRC administered \$1.1 million in funded projects across Montana. State funding for the Montana DNRC Equipment Development Center secured 36 new wildland fire engines for local government partners across Montana.

National Fire Plan

Montana DNRC awarded \$1,092,000 in fuels mitigation grants through the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program. Funded projects will mitigate the fire fuel hazard on 1,415 acres. Funding for the program comes through a grant from the USDA Forest Service.

Statewide Forest Resource Assessment

As required by the 2008 Farm Bill and the National State & Private Forestry Redesign, Montana DNRC completed a statewide assessment of forest resources and response strategy. The assessment and response strategy are used to establish program goals and prioritize projects in critical landscapes.

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